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Curios and Relics

Toys & Games

Dahlgren Boat Howitzer

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

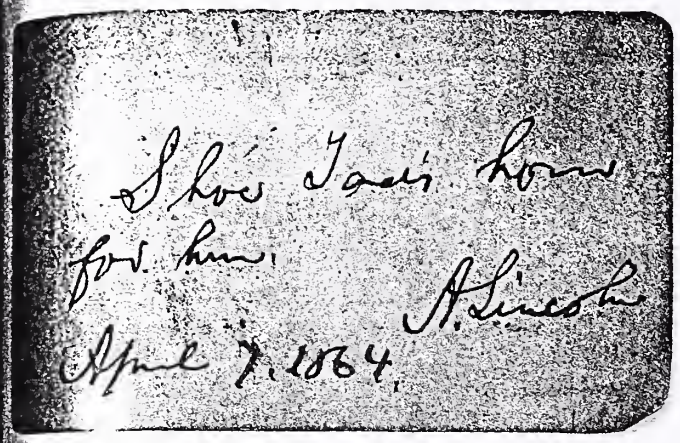
From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085 04611

Abraham Lincoln, autograph note signed to J.E. Allen, April 7, 1864.
(Taper Collection)

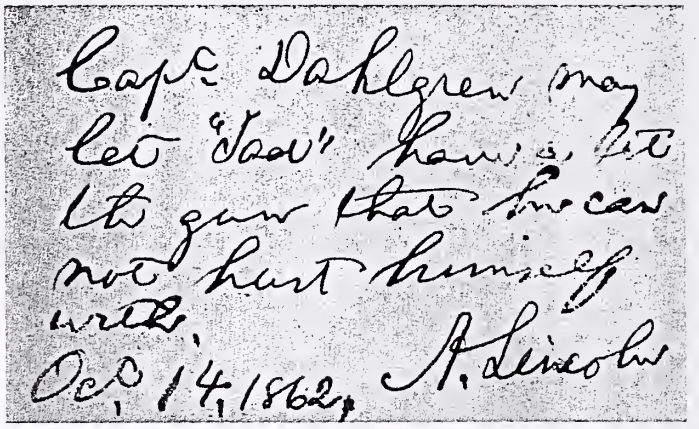
Lincoln sent this note to the White House blacksmith.
"Shoe Tad's horse for him."

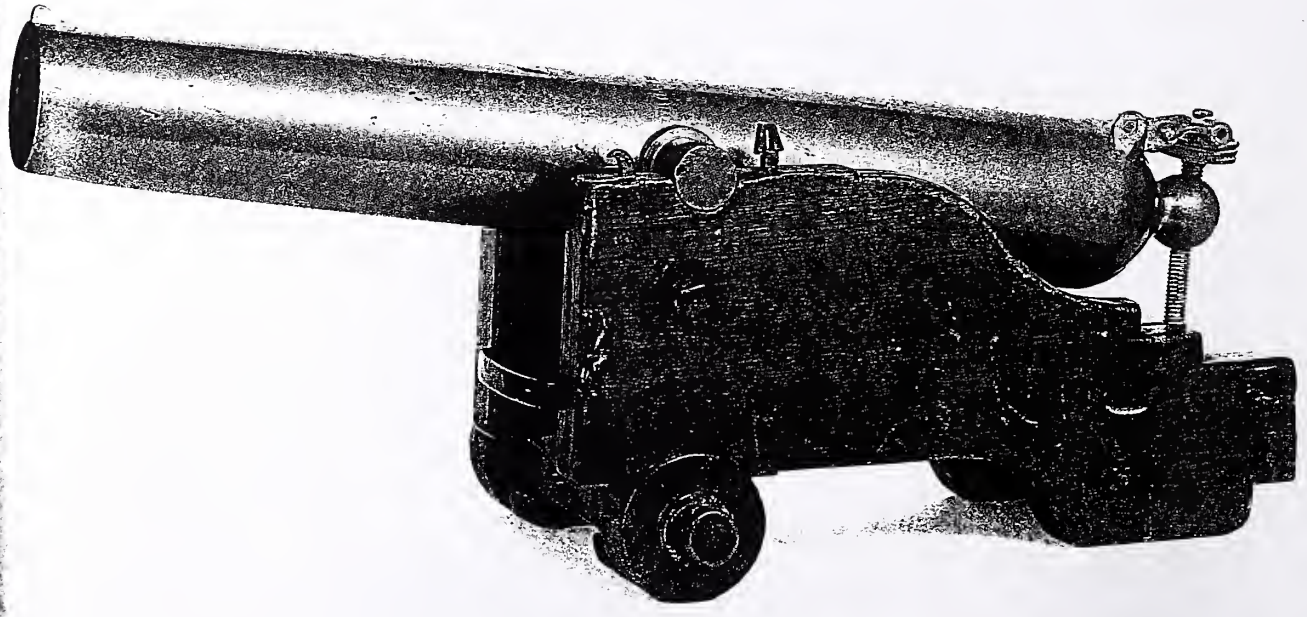


Abraham Lincoln, autograph note signed to John A. Dahlgren, October 14, 1862.
(Illinois State Historical Library)

John A. Dahlgren was chief ordnance officer for the Navy and the inventor of the Dahlgren howitzer. On October 14, 1862, Lincoln wrote,

"Capt. Dahlgren may let 'Tad' have a little gun that he cannot hurt himself with."



[Tad Lincoln] Brass Scale-model Dahlgren Boat Howitzer.
(Illinois State Historical Library)

The model Dahlgren Boat Howitzer given to Tad Lincoln. Dahlgren disabled the working model cannon by bending the firing pin before sending it to Tad.